Member.—There are Government temples and Devaswoms for other communities. Government can give us timber and land free and help us to build temples for our community.

Dewan.—Asking for timber or land is different from asking Government to build temples.

143. Urgent needs of the Sambavar community in the matter of roads, wells and dwelling sites, as also some suggestions for their educational and economic advancement.

Mr. K. Madhavan, (Member, Nominated), after expressing the gratitude of the Sambavar community to the Government for adopting a policy of benevolent sympathy, requested them to see that the orders issued by them with reference to that community were given effect to without delay and obstruction in the subordinate offices. He made the following requests in particular.

(1) Arrangements should be made for sinking wells in villages devoid of them, because much difficulty was being experienced by the community in getting good drinking water. He mentioned that several wells ordered to be sunk as many as ten years ago had not yet been sunk owing to the indifference of the officers concerned. The cost of a well was only Rs. 250 in Nanjanad. The Member prayed that Government might meet the entire cost on that account, as the people were poor.

(2) Immediate steps should be taken for the construction of approach roads to the villages of the community sanctioned ten years ago. The Member suggested that the contracts for those works might be given to the Salvation Army so as to avoid delay and unnecessary expenditure. He invited the particular attention of the Government to the need for approach roads to three of their most important villages, *viz.*, Karkadu, Kadati and Ratnapuram. The Member further urged the early construction of the road to Marutankulam, sanctioned four years ago, on which not more than Rs. 15 had been spent up to date.

(3) Action should also be taken in the direction of providing the members of his community with suitable building sites where they could live a healthy and independent life, each house site being at least 5 cents in extent, and that wherever possible new villages should be established by the acquisition of suitable sites from private parties or by utilising lands in the possession of Government. He drew attention to the fact that, though four years had elapsed since Government resolved to spend Rs. 30,000 annually for acquiring building sites for them, nothing had been accomplished so far. He observed that, in certain localities such as Terkulam, Allankaramulai, Edakkodu and Seetappal selected for providing house sites, the area intended for assignment to each house was less than the minimum suggested by him and pointed out that it was necessary to keep to that minimum. He requested that a list might be prepared of the sites available, so that new villages might be established to serve as outlets for congested villages in the neighbourhood.

(4) The impediments imposed in the way of their acquiring *poramboke* lands by the subordinates of the Revenue Department might be removed completely and plots of land within reserved forests, formerly cultivated by their forefathers and now lying waste without any trees growing on them, might be assigned to them for cultivation on payment of a tax of 4 annas per acre as in British India. Most of the good *puduval* lands in the lists put up in taluk cutcherries were not available as it was recorded that they were required for other purposes.

(5) Colonies of the members of his community might be established by Government on the plains where lands were available both for cultivation and for dwelling sites. It was undesirable to select malarious tracts for the purpose.

(6) The following educational concessions were then prayed for by the Member.

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(*a*) The exemption from payment of fees already allowed might be extended to entrance and examination fees as well.

(*b*) Night schools might be established for the benefit of those who were unable to avail themselves of the regular day schools, and the educational qualification in respect of the teachers of those schools might be relaxed by fixing their minimum qualification at the primary grade—a standard recognised in British India for all such teachers.

(*c*) The grants-in-aid to teachers should be raised and the minimum number of pupils required for a class under the Education Code might be reduced from 25 to 15 in the case of the depressed classes.

(*d*) Some aid might be given by Government towards the boarding of the pupils belonging to his community. The Member said that the London Mission Society and the Salvation Army had been rendering such aid and that the cost of each boy in the Salvation Army School came to Rs. 6 per mensem. He requested that one-half of the charges incurred on account of their boys in the said school might be borne by the Government, as the school was now obliged to close its doors to many deserving students for lack of funds.

(*e*) The full fee concession allowed to their children in Government schools might be extended to private schools also, as in public schools they were despised for their poverty and as they could prosecute their studies with a feeling of self-respect only in private schools. He requested that Government might be pleased to pay the authorities of the Christian institutions which educated their children a contribution equivalent to the amount covered by the concession sanctioned by the Government, as otherwise those private schools would cease to exist, thereby dealing a death-blow to the educational advancement of the community. Admission might be granted to a few of their boys to the Survey Schools conducted by Government.

(7) The Member also prayed that the educational qualifications required for admission to Government service might be relaxed in the case of candidates belonging to the depressed classes; that the age limit be raised to 28 in their case; and that berths be found for their youths in the lower ranks of the several departments.

(8) In conclusion, the Member pleaded for the removal of toddy and arrack shops from their villages and for total prohibition in the case of minors and for the appointment of special officers, at least of the rank of Tahsildars, one for each Division, to see that the various concessions granted to them produced the desired effect.

144. Suggestions for the advancement of the Sambavar community.

Mr. K. Madhavan (Member, Nominated) submitted that no teacher could be had in the Sambavar community who had passed the Travancore School Leaving examination, and that, therefore, persons who possessed the Madras primary examination certificates might be allowed to be engaged as teachers in schools started by the community in the Shencottah taluk, the grants-in-aid due under the Code being granted in spite of the lower qualification of such teachers.

In regard to the question of providing approach roads, wells, foot-bridges, etc., in the Shencottah taluk which was represented at the seventeenth session of the Assembly, the Member requested that final orders might be passed as early as practicable.

The Member also stated that the Sambavar community in the Shencottah taluk was very backward in point of education and requested that their students might be admitted to all departmental schools in the Shencottah taluk and given a scholarship of Rs. 5 each.

Dewan's reply.—You say that people in your *cheries* have no houses and you want house-sites in other *cheries*. You say that your complaints about roads, drinking wells and so on have not been considered till now. A committee will be appointed consisting of the Padmanabhapuram Division Assistant, the Tahsildar

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